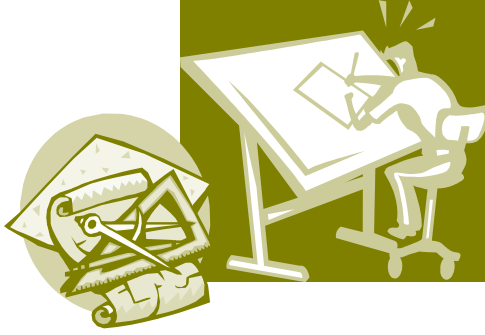


# MUSEUM SERVICES~



Our construction project planned for 2005-2006 will significantly reduce the threat of collections loss as a result of fire, flooding, and climate changes.

## *What museum collections are managed by Olmsted NHS?*

Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site was established by Congress in 1979 to preserve and interpret the home and office of Olmsted, the great American landscape architect, and his firm. The congressional act also authorized the purchase of the Olmsted archival collection which is housed on-site.

The Olmsted Archives documents over 5,000 landscape design projects undertaken by the Olmsted firm from the 1860s to 1980. Included in the collection are plans for major metropolitan park systems, parks and parkways, our national and many state capitol grounds, school and college campuses, residential suburbs, arboretums, and private estates.

The Olmsted Archives contains an estimated 140,000 landscape architectural drawings and plans, 30,000 photographic negatives, 60,000 photographic prints, 70,000 planting lists, 12,000 lithographs, financial records, job correspondence, reports, and models. There are also study collections on urban design, landscape architecture, and the fine arts in general, and a reference collection of maps and atlases.

## *What are our museum services goals?*

- Preserve and protect the archives and museum collections through museum quality storage, ongoing preservation maintenance, and preservation reformatting
- Provide public access to archives and museum collections through comprehensive collection descriptions and effective outreach to current and potential users
- Enhance educational programming and scholarship through dissemination of information contained in the archives and historic collections



## MUSEUM IMPROVEMENTS *resulting from CONSTRUCTION*

### FIRE PROTECTION

The House currently has NO fire suppression system, and the c.1925 sprinkler system in the Office and Barn does not meet modern standards. Fire could quickly overwhelm these connected structures, damaging or destroying them, along with the vast archival collections housed within. In addition, the Halon fire suppression system currently protecting the plans vault has high ozone depletion potential, and use of Halon is now greatly restricted under the Clean Air Act of 1990.

➤ *Project will replace historic fire suppression system in Office and Barn with a new, code-compliant system. A fire suppression system will be added to the House for complete coverage. Fire detection systems and emergency lighting will be upgraded throughout. Project will also replace the existing Halon system in the plans vault with a new and more acceptable water misting system.*

### HVAC SYSTEMS

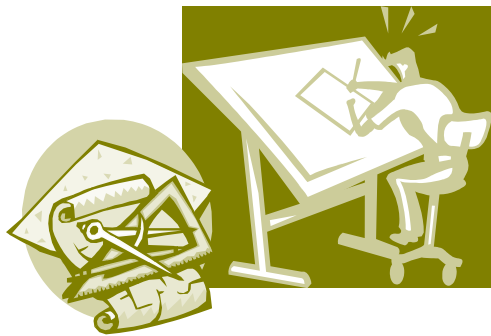
An ancient, unreliable heating system and NO centralized cooling or humidity control endangers archival and museum collections stored throughout Olmsted NHS.

➤ *Project provides heating, cooling, and ventilation systems to all buildings and dehumidification in archives research areas where feasible.*

### DRAINAGE & WATERPROOFING SYSTEMS

Olmsted NHS is situated at the bottom of a granite drumlin with shallow soil, and the entire site is periodically flooded with storm water drainage from surrounding hills.

➤ *Project will upgrade inadequate site drainage systems to eliminate flooding of buildings, grounds, and archives storage areas.*



What are the current services provided by Olmsted Archives staff? What services will be offered during our construction project in 2005-2006?

## services

### Current museum services~

The Olmsted Archives is currently available for on-site use by researchers with assistance from Museum Services staff. Limited research visits may be arranged by advance appointment. The public may also request basic information about Olmsted design projects. Contact:

OLMSTED ARCHIVES  
Frederick Law Olmsted NHS  
99 Warren Street  
Brookline, MA 02445  
Tel 617.566-1689  
FRLA\_Olmsted\_Archives@nps.gov

Museum Services staff provide reprographic copies of original archival materials on request. Available formats are dependent on the size and condition of the original documents in the Olmsted Archives.

The OLMSTED RESEARCH GUIDE ONLINE at [www.rediscov.com/olmsted](http://www.rediscov.com/olmsted) is an internet searchable database of information about existing records related to Olmsted design work. ORGO currently includes information about records held at Olmsted NHS and the Library of Congress. In addition, ORGO includes a *Project Information* search which allows researchers to search for Olmsted design projects through a variety of access points – e.g., client name, historic job number, project type, and city and state.

### Services during construction~

➡ To protect the Olmsted archives and museum collections, Museum Services staff will move collections currently stored in the Olmsted office wing to a temporary location off-site during construction. The drawings and plans collection will remain on-site and safely stored in the plans vault during construction. The Olmsted Archives will be closed after October 31, 2004 for four to six months to allow staff to pack and move collections and safeguard museum areas. Once we have relocated, we hope to offer limited research services at our temporary location. As details are worked out, updates concerning our new location and operating hours will be posted on the Olmsted NHS website: [www.nps.gov/frla](http://www.nps.gov/frla).

➡ Museum Services staff hope to continue offering limited reprographic services on request once the archival collections and staff have been relocated to a temporary facility for the period of construction.

➡ Researchers can continue to access the ORGO website during our construction project: [www.rediscov.com/olmsted](http://www.rediscov.com/olmsted)

Another repository of Olmsted materials and information is the U. S. Library of Congress:

(202) 707-5387  
[www.loc.gov/](http://www.loc.gov/)

